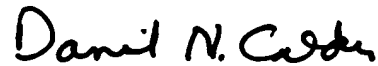


Remarks/Arguments:

By this Preliminary Amendment, the specification and the Abstract have been amended to place the application in better condition for examination and allowance. Claims 3-4, 6-16, 19-20, 22, and 24 have been amended and claims 21 and 26 have been canceled to avoid multiple dependent claims and otherwise comply with the requirements and standards of U.S. Patent and Trademark Office practice. Entry of this Preliminary Amendment and issuance of a first action on the merits are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney for Applicant

DNC/mhs
Attachments: Abstract

Dated: June 8, 2006

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The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

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I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Kathleen Libby